#### PRICE FIVE CENTS.

# THE APPARITION OF THE AIR.

Oaklanders Say Its Frame Was Like the Body of a Bird.

## ATTORNEY COLLINS' TALE SUPPORTED.

Another Lawyer Who Was Informed of the Alighting of the Flier.

### MOVING LIGHTS ONCE MORE MYSTIFY THIS CITY.

Dr. Benjamin Disclaims the Invention-Mayor Sutro's Testimony and That of Other Reputable Citizens Offered.

Testimony concerning the existence of an airship which is supposed to be navigating the air over the bay cities by night and hiding from observation in some secluded place before daybreak came in yesterday from many sources. Many persons saw mysterious lights moving overhead. But the projectors of the phenomenon which has caused intense and general interest seem to revel in mystery.

Among those who yesterday told of seeing the lights carried about by an aeria visitor were Mayor Sutro. Colonel Menton, the excursion agent of the Southern Pacific going to write such stuff before they left Company; Samuel Foliz, advertising manager of THE CALL; Professor C. H. Murphy of the Polytechnic High School, also many others.

What they saw or heard from others who saw the moving light is told in the subjoined account. They all tell practically the same story, which is that the light appeared quite high overhead and that it moved very fast. They did not all observe it to be moving in the same direction.

Dr. Benjamin, who has been supposed to have invented a flying machine or air-Dr. Benjamin, who has been supposed to have invented a flying machine or airship, which is supposed to be the cause of the phenomena observed overhead during idea of being perfectly able to ma nage his doubtedly was sent by telegraph from Sacthe past few nights, was in the City vesterday, and last evening was interviewed by THE CALL. Dr. Benjamin said that he did not know anything about the airship. At the same time he conceded that if he did know of such an invention of his own, he would consider it wise not to give any information concerning it until he had secured his patents. Dr. Benjamin said that Mr. Collins is his attorney, and admitted that he visited Mr. Collins yesterday afternoon. This, in connection with the fact that Mr. a San Francisco man, but he has con-Collins admitted that he is attorney for a man who claims to have invented an airship, must be taken for what it is worth.

Concerning this mystery it should be clearly understood that THE CALL does not aver that an airship has been invented, nor does it deny that such is the fact. There is no intention on the part of THE CALL to deceive its readers. The statements which have been made by reputable citizens are given, and these will un- grossly misrepresented me in his interthe true value upon the different circumstances. There are several theories to account for the mysterious moving light, which do not necessarily imply the existence

There is no doubt that many people firmly believe in the airship. There were many such who sat up late last night to watch for the appearance of such a vessel. Many stood on roofs and in other elevated places, in the rain, until late, hoping to get a glimpse of it. At the hour of going to press the whole matter remained a mystery. Henry W. Bradley of the law firm of Stanly, Hayes & Bradley made a very interesting statement which will be widely read.

The most circumstantial story yet told came from Oakland last night. Passengers on a streetcar claim to have been attracted by the light overhead and looking upward they saw distinctly the outlines of an airship, which resembled a huge bird in its outlines and which seemed to rise and fall in its course. Many residents of Oakland say that they, also, discerned the outlines of the vessel.

### BODY LIKE A BIRD.

What Spectators Across the Bay Say That They Saw.

OAKLAND, CAL., Nov. 23 .- There is a general impression in this city that the airship which has been seen so often recently is being housed somewhere in Ala.

The whole population is about equally of airships and looking at the sky expecting to see the winged machine parting the clouds Reports are continually being hood of Berkeley and Haywards, as though the inventor were confining his experithat skirt the northern boundary of the county and the bay. Several people saw the light over Haywards last night, and the number of people who have seen it in North Oakland is constantly increasing.

Last evening the conductor wearing badge No. 26 of the Alameda electric line reported seeing the affair over Fruitvale. He says it had a powerful headlight and there appeared to be several smaller lights

on board · Mayor Davie is a firm believer in the existence of the airship. "I doubted the story of those who declared they had seen it," said the Mayor to-day, "but when I looked through the names of the reputable people who unhesitatingly assert that they have seen it I doubt it no

"I have always believed in the practicability of airships, and a few years ago old Dr. Freeling had a model that closely resembled the picture published of this invention, and he told me before he died use the secret of air-flying would be solved. I have no doubt that some one has built a liar light in the skies. The huge bird-machine, because many of those who have

seen it are certainly entitled to credit." Attorney A. A. Moore heard the story of the airship a few days ago. "I did not talk with Mr. Collins," he said, "but I was talking with a friend, an attorney, who told me that Collins had talked with him about a client who had invented an

Last evening at about 7:30 o'clock the

direction of Haywards. The passengers distinctly saw the outlines of an airship and watched its maneuvers high in the

of light high in the heavens off in the

The ship resembles a huge bird in its outlines and seemed to rise and fall in ita course. A light streamed from the head meda County when it is not being tested of the ship, throwing a white stream of by its inventor.

Of the ship, throwing a white stream of light for several hundred yards. As the Benjamin, I believe — to maintain outlines of the airship were plainly disengaged between discussing the qualities | cerned the passengers in the car became greatly excited. The phenomenon had first about the heavens at night. He is to say been noted by a man who had been idly watching the heavens. As soon as he perceived the light he attracted the attention of the other passengers and all intensely interested watched the peculiar machine

as it made its way through the skies.

It was high in the heavens and appeared to be of huge size. When first seen it seemed to be floating over San Leandro. It moved rapidly, going at least twenty miles an hour. It shot across the skies in the northwest, then turned quickly and disappeared in the direction of Haywards. Not only was the airship seen by the passengers, but many other residents of this city distinctly saw the brilliant light and the huge, bird-like body floating in midair. None of the spectators were acquainted with each other, and yet their stories are startlingly similar, agreeing as to time, direction of the airship and description. These facts leave little doubts in the minds of many people that a successful airship has been invented, and is

navigating the heavens. Miss Wilson, a daughter of Captain Wilson of the police force, and her friend, Miss Hunter, are among those who viewed the strange sight. The two friends accompanied another young lady to the streetcar about 7 P. M. yesterday, where their attention was attracted by the pecuwas clearly visible, and both young ladies are positive it was an airship. It followed the same course as described by the passenger on the Alameda car. Police Officer Carson and John Strickler, the flagman at Fourteenth and Broadway, also declare

"The representatives of the afternoon papers were almost hysterical in their depassengers on an Alameda car were mands that I discredit The Call's infer-startled by the sight of a brilliant stream view. I wish to say right here that I have could have ascertained that I know any-

that they saw the airship.



I've been wondering ever since what became of it."

not a word to take back of all that has thing about the airship," said Henry W. that has reported me correctly. The representative of THE CALL. stories in the evening papers that I had "Do you know anything about it?" denied the interview were false and the writers actually told me that they were

the attorney for the inventor I have not seen my client. We mailed the papers re- talking about, and I will say, further, that garding the patent to Washington last week and expect to hear soon of their arrival. I do not know when I shall see my chent again, but I expect him any day. what he is doing.

"I wish to correct one idea that seems to be prevalent. Some papers have published the fact that the inventor is an Oroville man. I have not said so. He is structed his machine near Oroville. I did say this afternoon to the reporters of the San Francisco evening papers that the story as published in the Chronicle was a ing come here, and, after talking to me Collins. a while, getting into it and moving away. The statement that I had seen it working

"As I told you before, as I told him, and as I now repeat it, all I know is that I have been appealed to by a man who appears perfectly sound to act as his attorney in securing for him a patent on his invention. It would be presumptious for me to say the story that an airship was being worked about the bay was a fake, when it is taken into consideration the number of people who stake their reputation on having seen one. Even if it was not the ship of the man who came to see me, it is not for me to say that these people have not seen an airship. There is more than one man at work on the question of aerial navigation, and some one is bound to solve it as they did the steam-engine and the electric-car. I am as skeptical regarding the actual working of the craft as any one, but am not such a fool as to say that it is an impossibility.

"I was told in this city to-day that the that he is the one who has been going that he has paid me \$500 as a retainer and that I am to have \$1500 when the patents are issued. This is along the line of their story as first told, and it must be kept up at any cost. I desire to denounce the whole story in advance as a pure fake to support the wild imagination of one of their reporters. It places me in an unfair light before the public and injures my husiness to have such stories set affoat when there is not the least foundation for

"When the Examiner man came to me Sunday afternoon he told me that his paper had the whole story and knew the connected with the airship scheme, either inventor and would publish it this morning. They did not particularly care, he said, for my version, but would like to have it just to verify what they knew. The bold bluff did not work and the story in to-day's Examiner trying to ridicule the affair, but at the same time leaving loopholes to escape, was the result

"There is no denying the fact that the public has been aroused to a high pitch of expectation by the reports published. The Examiner sent a man to me to-day who said they had treated the whole affair as a huge joke, but found that the people were looking at it in a serious manner and they were ready to give the news as received, regardless of how improbable it might look He asked me to give a true account of the matter as far as I knew anything, but when I denied having seen the machine work or naving ridden in it he laughed and said I was hedging."

#### KNEW OF THE AIRSHIP.

Attorney H. W. Bradley Was Informed of Interesting Facts.

been reported. It was a truthful, reliable Bradley of the law firm of Stanley, Have interview and THE CALL is the only paper & Bradley, of this City, yesterday, to a

> Mr. Bradley hesitated a moment, then said: "The man you want to see is George A. Collins, the attorney. All I can say is that if Collins said what is accredited to him in a published interview this morning, Collins knows what he is Collins would scarcely take part in a fake story, because he would have more to lose

than to gain by so doing.
"Now, there is that first publication in it states it was after midnight that the object was seen over that city. Then there is McGovern at the California Hotel, who told me Saturday night that he saw it between 2 and 4 o'clock in the morning. I know that it landed at 3 o'clock-"Where?"

"You have made me say more than I intended to," replied Mr. Bradley, with a look upon his countenance which seemed

"You must understand that I cannot speak about this matter, but will say this: THE CALL has been consistent in this matter. It is on the right track and it must not back water; and then it got ahead of all the other papers on a big piece of

mento, who stated that if certain parties of that city declared that they had seen the object he believed what they said." "Where is that wonderful and much

talked-about airship now?" was asked. "That I cannot tell you, but I will say this: I was to have inspected it to-day, but for some reason the invitation I expected did not reach me; possibly because the premature announcement in THE CALL has interfered with projected plans, or it may be the weather. "I wish to place myself right in this

matter. While in conversation with a gentleman three or four days before the first publication of the airship story in THE CALL I was told that such an invention was in existence and the difficulty of navigating the sky would soon be overthroughout that the invention is his and come. The gentleman who gave me this information did so in confidence, a confidence that I will not betray. As an attorney I could not afford to do so and as a man I would not.

"There is another reason I have for not wishing to give expression to my knowledge or views, which is this: Several of asserted that he denied the truth of the statements attributed to him. Now, it the truth of the stories THE CALL has pubwould not look well for me to make statements contradictory to his or have him deny statements that I made. Therefore, I will keep silent."

Mr. Bradley stated that he is in no way as an attorney or as a friend to the parties

"Do you believe that the existence of an airship at the present time is possible?" Mr. Bradley smiled and cantionaly an

swered: "Was the airship not seen by hundreds of respectable citizens in Sacramento, San Francisco, Oakland and other places? I would not presume to dispute their statements."

"Then you believe that we have such an invention that has proved a success?"

DEATH OF ITALO CAMPANINI, THE GREAT TENOR.

ROME, ITALY, Nov. 23 .- Italo Campanini, the singer, who was known in the

United States, died at Parma to-day.

Italo Campanini was born in Parma in 1846. He enlisted in the army of Garibaldi

ing the campaign that he had a wonderful voice he studied singing for two years at

the Conservatory of Parma, and made his first appearance as the notary in "La Sonnambula," at his native town. In 1869 he went to Milan and placed himself

under the tuition of the celebrated teacher Francesco Lamperti. In 1872 he made his

London debut as Genaro in "Lucrezia Borgia," and in 1873 sang with Christine

Nilsson in New York. He returned to America during the season of 1879-60. Besides

being the greatest tenor living at that time he was remarkable for the immense scope

of his repertoire, which included nearly eighty operas, the tenor roles of which he

me. However, I am not an authority. All I know, that is, all I think I know, is from hearsay testimony, and I do not intend to commit myself upon hearsay testimony alone. I have never seen it, and I do not expect to make a trip in it as it has been

#### SEEN LAST NIGHT.

Many Persons in This City Gazed Upward and Wondered.

The mysterious light was seen last night practical experience. Samuel Foltz, advertising manager of THE CALL, was looking out from his residence at 1157 Stanyan street about 9:15 p. M., when he noticed a light traveling in the direction of Berkeley. He at first thought he was dreaming, but looking again he called out the people residing in the house and all agreed that the light corresponded in appearance with that attributed to the mysterious flying

Mr. Foltz said that the light was apparently that of an ordinary lamp; that it was located about 300 feet above the earth, fake. Not only that; I told the young to say that he wished he had remained and was, when sighted, above the locality fellow from the Chronicle that he had grossly misrepresented me in his interfeatures: "I cannot tell you where it eling direct and with tremendous velocity view where he quoted me as having said I landed; that is, I do not feel at liberty to I toward Berkeley. The light remained in I saw the airship work, the inventor hav-

> C. H. Murphy, a teacher at the Polytechnic High School, told an interesting story last evening: "I was coming down Valencia street about 9:15 to-night," said Mr. Murphy, "and I noticed the phenomenon. Above, at an elevation of possibly 4000 feet, was an electric glow, which was moving toward the park at the rate of one mile per minute. This was observed by hundreds of persons. Every one on Valencia street might have seen it. There was only one light. This had a vibration or wave. There was no fake about this. When I saw the light I was on the south side of Valencia street."

#### OVER SUTRO HEIGHTS.

Airship Seen by the Mayor's Employes a Few Days Ago. None of those who have seen the mys

terious moving lights in the heavens that are believed to be those of an airship is more, firmly convinced that a flying machine hovers nightly over the bay cities than Mayor Sutro, and the story he tells to support his expressed belief is vastly The Mayor is nothing if not practical

and he says that there is not the faintest doubt in his mind that the aerial courser passed over Sutro Heights a short time ago and that it was a genuine airship and doing a very fair job of air-sailing. "I have not seen the ship myself," said

the Mayor after the meeting of the Board the newspapers have published interviews of Supervisors yesterday, "but some of with Mr. Collins and other papers have my people at the heights have, and their stories leave no doubt in my mind as to lished on the subject.

"Their narratives were not given me after the paper got hold of the matter, but were told several days ago when no such thing had reached public print.

"When I reached home one evening about the length of time ago I mention. I and when I inquired the reason of the agitation they told me of a strange spectacle they had witnessed a short time before. They told me that shortly after dark they had seen a strange, brilliant light coming in from the direction of the

sea.
"At first little attention was paid to it, but as the light drew nearer all became very much interested and watched the brilliant spot closely.

And Some Time Later Was Seen Over the Twin Peaks. M. H. Cohen of 510 Baker street, a con-

"As it approached the heights they saw

ocean and was moving swiftly and with a

"When almost over the beach two lights

were discernible, one apparently being be-

low a misty-looking mass and the other

"They paid particular attention to the

latter, as it threw a long ray of light, similar to that east by a searchlight, far

out into the darkness. They told me that

this stream of light was 500 feet long, but

I presume that, while it seemed that long,

that they saw just what they described.

been working on the problem.'

it was seen from the heights.

tery Sailed.

corner of Larkin and McAllister streets.

He is confident he saw the mysterious

"Last night, at about 20 minutes of

s o'clock, the elevator-boy came to my

airship to go to the window. My wife and

door and told me if I wanted to see the

at an apparent height of about 100 vards.

the northwest, another toward the south-

west, and one, the most brilliant, poured

its light directly toward the earth. These

lights had the appearance and intensity

nor any other wanderer of the heavens.

"It was traveling toward the west and

We all gazed at it until it disap-

we saw it distinctly for ten or fifteen min-

peared in the distance. It neither rose

nor fell, but maintained an even course

CROSSED THE GATE.

of searcalights

about the park.

parallel with the earth."

serial peregrinator Sunday night. This is

his story as he told it yesterday:

slightly undulating motion.

ductor on the Hayes-street car line, saw an object in the sky at 7:05 last Sunday evening, which he believes was the airship. The object seemed to be 300 or 400 feet above the earth. Speaking of the sight yesterday he said: "I first saw it at Market and Eighth streets. It seemed to be moving across the Golden Gate and a flash was occasionally displayed. I called the gripman's attention to it, and he looked and said, "It might be the airship." Two gentlemen on the rear end of the car saw it. I told the receiver and the night watchman about what I had seen. The

car left the ferry at 7:13 o'clock, and at First street I saw the object again directly over the Twin Peaks. The forward light seemed to be steady. I informed Frank Allen, the machinist at the carbouse, and he remarked that he had seen a similar object and called the attention of two hen 14 years old, and took part in the fight before Milazzo. Having discovered durladies to it.

"I did not see the object again until I got to the top of Pierce-street hill. Then it seemed to be coming back again from Twin Peaks. We left the park at 7:51, and looking back from Ashbury street got a good view of it. A light was flashed downward for a few minutes. The night

Continued on Second Page.

# TAKEN FROM THE RIGGING

Imperiled Men of the San Benito Rescued by the Point Arena.

SIX NUMBERED AMONG THE LOST.

urvivors Almost Dead From Exhaustion When Aid Arrives.

DRENCHED FOR HOURS BY THE HEAVY SEAS.

Stories of Awful Suffering Told by Those Who Escaped With Their Lives.

POINT ARENA, CAL., Nov. 23 .- Thirtyone survivors of the San Benito disaster were taken from the wrecked steamship at 7 o'clock this morning by rescuers sent in boats from the steamship Point Arena. Since 1 o'clock yesterday morning some had been hanging to the wave-swept rigging and others tenanting a small apart-ment in the hold, which each high sea almost filled with water. The men were benumbed and exhausted, and a half dozen of them had decided to plunge into the sea and make a last attempt to reach shore when the boat from the Point Arena stood in and they saw rescue at hand. It is now certain that only six of the crew were lost. They were:

O. W. SCOTT, first assistant engineer C. CONDON, second assistant en

I. W. WILSON, chief cook

JOHN SHEERAN, forward messman CHARLES BROWN, coal passer. NICHOLAS FITZGERALD, coa

Those who reached shore from the wreck by swimming, or on the boat that "They watched it until it disappeared in the direction of the City and saw it turn toward the north just before it passed from view. Now these poorts."

Capsized when near the beach, were: F.

E. Foster, quartermaster; Charles Janson, seaman; Harry Jackson, donkeyman; turn toward the north just before it passed from view. Now these poorts.

Christopher, fireman, and Nat Lyva, coalpasser. The rest of from view. Now, these people would not try to tell me ghost stories, and I know crew are aboard the Point Arena, which steamed for Eureka after taking them "I certainly think that some shrewd inventor has solved the problem of aerial aboard. The San Benito lies as it did yesterday. navigation and that we will hear all about the forward half about 100 feet from the

it within a short time. It would not be balance of the vessel. Much of the proany more wonderful than the invention visions and canned goods in the storeof the telegraph, the telephone, the phononot pounded to pieces by the seas.

All night long efforts had been made to that some one must hit on the proper

appliances when so many smart men have rescue the men from the wrecked steamship. At midnight men were sent to the It has been stated that the airship town of Point Arena to make some bolts shot from the steamship Weott's ago and played its light on the seals, and gun. Unfortunately the steamer sent only it may be that this was the occasion when one bullet with the gun and on the first trial the line was too tight and it broke. It was nearly morning when the men COLONEL MENTON SAW IT. from town returned with bolts and a new line. Meanwhile those on the beach had Three Lights in View as the Mysmade two large kites and had them flying over the wreck when it was light enough Colonel W. H. Menton, the excursion to see her: but at this time the boa.s from agent of the Southern Pacific Company, the Point Arena and Weott had reached lives in the Supreme Court building at the

wreck was rescued. A mighty shout went up from the shore. The men yelled and danced for joy and the women, many of whom had patiently watched on the beach all night in the rain and cold, cried and laughed alternately. The whole country was soon notified of the rescue, messengers starting for town two lady friends went at once to the win- as fast as horses could run to carry the dow, and looking out toward the park, say glad tidings.

the San Benito and soon every man on the

The six men who reached shore yestersaw three lights. One shot its rays toward day tell substantially the same story. Harry Faehn, the last man who was washed overboard and pulled out of the breakers exhausted, and who required the doctor's attention for two hours before consciousness was restored, is still in a "I am sure," continued Colonel Mencritical condition. A CALL correspondent ton, "that it was neither a star, meteor found him at the house of Thomas Kenney, who lives near the scene of the disas-The light was far brighter than any of ter, whither Faenn was taken as soon as the electric lights I saw just below, in and he could be moved. He is still dazed and believes he is on the wreck, and the doctor is afraid he will not survive.

Harry Jackson, donkeyman, and Charles Janson, seaman, say that it began blowing a gale Saturday afternoon, with a heavy shower of rain, and at times nothing could be seen a ship's length away. The deck was washed by the waves every few minutes, so that the lookout had to stand on the bridge for fear of being washed overboard.

After dark Saturday night no lights of any kind were seen, and as the ship was being worked by dead running the log showed that she was or should be four miles off and below the Point Arena lighthouse. A few minutes past 1 o'clock breakers were seen dead ahead, and, although going very slowly, before she could be stopped or her course changed the San Benito ran bow on the beach and stuck fast.

The heavy sea broke over her every moment, and each wave lifted her stern high and brought it down with a thump that sel broke in two just aft the smokestack and the stern parted and went back on the beach about fifty feet south of the forward part, which stuck fast

As soon as she struck the whistle was blown for any assistance that might be at hand. The whistle was kept going until she broke in two. When the vessel crashed into shore both the forward and after port boats were wrenched from their davits and crushed. The forward starboard boat, with First Assistant Engineer Charles Jansen and three others in it, was sent away to attempt a landing and get assistance.

It was capsized in an instant, and the erew left struggling in the angry waves. Jansen and one other reached the beach